

REMARKS

I. Formalities

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents submitted on December 21, 2001.

However, the Examiner did not indicate whether the Formal Drawings filed on December 21, 2001 are accepted. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge and approve the aforementioned Formal Drawings.

II. Status of the Application

By the present amendment, claims 1-2, 7, 11-12, 16, 20-22, 31-32, 35, 37, and 39 have been amended. Claims 1-39 are all the claims pending in the Application, with claims 1, 7, 11-12, and 39 being in independent form. Claims 1-39 have been rejected.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-39 would be allowed if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants hereby amend claims 1, 2, 7, 11-12, 22, 31-32, 35, 37, and 39 to more particularly point out the claimed invention. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-39 are immediately allowable.

IV. Specification Objection

The Examiner has objected to the title of the invention as not descriptive. Applicants hereby replace the present title with a new title as set forth above. The Examiner is requested to approve this new title.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

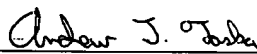
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER



Andrew J. Taska
Registration No.: 54,666

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